Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace paragraphs [0008] and [0020] with the following amended paragraphs [0008] and [0020] :

[0008]   In one aspect of the invention there is provided a ceramic article having a composition comprising u $(Al_2O_3\text{-}TiO_2)$ + v (R) + w $(3Al_2O_3\text{-}2SiO_2)$ + x (Al_2O_3) + y (SiO_2) + z $(1.1SrO\text{-}1.5Al_2O_3\text{-}13.6SiO_2\text{-}TiO_2)$ + a $(Fe_2O_3\text{-}TiO_2)$ + b $(MgO\text{-}2TiO_2)$, where, R is $SrO\text{-}Al_2O_3\text{-}2SiO_2$ or $11.2SrO\text{-}10.9Al_2O_3\text{-}24.1SiO_2\text{-}TiO_2$, where u, v, w, x, y, z, a and b are weight fractions of each component such that $(u+v+w+x+y+z+a+b=1)$, and ~~$0.5 <u\le 0.95, 0.01 <v\le 0.5, 0.01 <w\le 0.5, 0 <x\le 0.5, 0 <y\le 0.1, 0 <z\le 0.5, 0 <a\le 0.3, and 0 <b\le 0.3$~~. $0.5 <u\le 0.95, 0.01 <v\le 0.5, 0.01 <w\le 0.5, 0 \le x\le 0.5, 0 \le y\le 0.1, 0 \le z\le 0.5, 0 \le a\le 0.3, and 0 \le b\le 0.3$. Phases of aluminum titanate $(Al_2O_3 \cdot TiO_2)$, strontium feldspar $(SrO \cdot Al_2O_3 \cdot 2SiO_2)$, mullite $(3Al_2O_3 \cdot 2SiO_2)$, alumina (Al_2O_3), and/or glass have been observed by x-ray diffraction, and electron-probe micro-analysis in the inventive ceramic. These phases are not required to be perfectly stoichiometric, or crystalline in the final product.

[0020]   The invention provides an aluminum titanate-based ceramic comprising u $(Al_2O_3\text{-}TiO_2)$ + v (R) + w $(3Al_2O_3\text{-}2SiO_2)$ + x (Al_2O_3) + y (SiO_2) + z $(1.1SrO\text{-}1.5Al_2O_3\text{-}13.6SiO_2\text{-}TiO_2)$ + a $(Fe_2O_3\text{-}TiO_2)$ + b $(MgO\text{-}2TiO_2)$, where, R is $SrO\text{-}Al_2O_3\text{-}2SiO_2$ or $11.2SrO\text{-}10.9Al_2O_3\text{-}24.1SiO_2\text{-}TiO_2$, where u, v, w, x, y, z, a and b are weight fractions of each component such that $(u+v+w+x+y+z+a+b=1)$, and ~~$0.5 <u\le 0.95, 0.01 <v\le 0.5, 0.01 <w\le 0.5, 0 <x\le 0.5, 0 <y\le 0.1, 0 <z\le 0.5, 0 <a\le 0.3, and 0 <b\le 0.3$~~ $0.5 <u\le 0.95, 0.01 <v\le 0.5, 0.01 <w\le 0.5, 0 \le x\le 0.5, 0 \le y\le 0.1, 0 \le z\le 0.5, 0 <a\le 0.3, and 0 \le b\le 0.3$.